

Gage County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

Co-Facilitators/Co-Writers

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Gage County Community Team:

The initial planning group first met in June, 2000, to discuss developing a comprehensive plan for juvenile services. The Gage County Juvenile Services Advisory Council was eventually formed and adopted the task of completing the county's three year Juvenile Services Plan. It was submitted and approved in June, 2002, by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Juvenile Services Advisory Council met monthly, and later quarterly, through summer of 2005. At that time, this group completed a merge with a county-wide coalition and became the Community Justice Task Force, part of Gage County MAPS (Multiple Agencies Partnering for Success). This task force currently meets monthly. The structure includes a facilitator, a recorder and a variety of community members. The Gage County Juvenile Diversion Advisory Council also has influence in the comprehensive plan.

As a result of the funding available in submitting the Juvenile Services Plan, the Community Service Coordination Program was developed. The Beatrice Police Department contracted with Gage County to provide the personnel and space for this program from spring, 2003, to the current time.

List of current membership in Community Justice Task Force/Gage County Juvenile Advisory Council and the Juvenile Diversion Advisory Council:

Name/Title	Address	Phone	Email
Betsy Spilker Beatrice Middle School Counselor Juvenile Diversion	215 N. 5 th , Beatrice, NE	223-1500	bspilker@bpsne.org
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GAGE COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS TOOL

(COMMUNITY PLANNING DECISION POINT ANALYSIS)

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the Tool where applicable.

Gage County

A Gage County Comprehensive Plan meeting was held November 2008. Those present included local representatives from Drug Court/Probation, Gage County MAPS Coalition, Juvenile Diversion, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, the Beatrice Police Department, Advocates for Justice, Nebraska State Patrol, Gage County Victims Assistance, the Beatrice Public Library, the schools, and the community (retired police officer).

Each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in Gage County.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage in Gage County, particularly since the last application of the Tool for Gage County. Not all decision points are commented on. An assessment of the Gage County data has been completed as part of applying the Tool. Such data is referenced throughout this report when necessary to fully analyze a certain decision point.

NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - GAGE COUNTY
(Nebraska Crime Commission)

	2005	2006	2007
ARRESTS	217	182	241
OFFENSES			
3rd Degree Assault	13	18	11
Arson - Felony	0	1	0
Burglary	9	1	3
Drug - Misdemeanor	0	1	1
Theft < \$1500	0	4	0
Theft < \$500	0	2	0
Theft < \$200	4	8	5
Crim Mischief - Felony	6	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	11	4	4
Major Trespass	12	8	3
Forgery - Felony	0	2	0
Weapon - Misd	1	2	0
Disturbing Peace	10	1	5
Other Felony	1	1	2
Other Misdemeanor	17	14	8
Truancy	14	11	3
Ungovernable Behavior	8	1	2
Possession of Alcohol	17	15	7
Neglect	40	32	20
Dependent	1	0	1
Other/Unknown	11	14	3
TOTAL	175	140	78

Gage County Data

Gage County has a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of about 5000, according to OJJDP at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/exapop/>.

When comparing Gage County juvenile offense data from 2005 through 2007 to statewide data during the same time period, a couple differences are identified. 3rd degree assault filings were higher in Gage County with 7.43% in 2005 compared to 6.48% statewide, 12.86% in 2006 compared to 7.19% statewide, and 14.10% in 2007 compared to 6.94% statewide. Also, a slightly larger percentage of neglect filings occurred in Gage County than statewide over the past 3 years.

According to the Nebraska Crime Commission, arrests of 0-17 year olds in Gage County were 217 juvenile arrests in 2005, 182 juvenile arrests in 2006, and 241 juvenile arrests in 2007 were reported. Arrests were up in 2007, but juvenile filings did not reflect that spike. Filings, or total offenses, were significantly lower in 2007 than in 2005 and 2006.

Decision Points:

Arrest/Citation (Police/Law Enforcement)

Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, under which juvenile should be cited or arrested

Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult

Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release

Notes:

This decision depends on the nature of the infraction, the severity of the incident, and the circumstances surrounding the event. The Nebraska State Patrol automatically calls parents when the incident is a misdemeanor and the arrestee is under 18.

The Beatrice Police Department uses juvenile contact card system for minors. The first time a juvenile comes in contact with the Beatrice Police, they may not be cited, but instead a contact card is created. This serves as a warning allowing the juvenile to realize that what they did was illegal. The second time, or second offense, the contact card is checked and if there was a prior contact, they are arrested at that time. Sometimes contact cards are not checked and a juvenile might get caught several times without an arrest, usually for an offense like possessing cigarettes. Certain offenses are zero tolerance, like alcohol-related offenses. If it is a runaway situation, the court won't look at that until 3rd time it has occurred, which is the judge's rule.

Initial Detention (Probation)

Whether juvenile should be detained or released

Notes:

Probation's assessment tool is used. If detained, the juvenile is transported to Lancaster County Youth Services. Recently, the Gage County Board declined to renew Gage County's contact with Lancaster County Youth Services, so currently when a juvenile needs detention, they are transported to Sarpy County or Madison County.

Charge Juvenile (County Attorney)

Whether to prosecute juvenile

Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult

Offense(s) for which juvenile should be charged

Notes:

Across the state, younger offenders (8-12) have become a systemic problem. Gage County is no different. A juvenile as young as 9 has gone through the community service program. The younger age offenders are usually cited because of vandalism in Gage County.

Gage County has a juvenile diversion program for first time offenders between the ages of 12 and 17 with the approval of the county attorney's office. An exception to that rule is when a very young juvenile has been through court, is older with several years between offenses, and the offense is completely different. In those cases the county attorney allows them to participate in the diversion program.

Though not in place now, the diversion program is moving towards utilizing the YLS/CMI assessment.

The group discussed the idea of tracking diversion participants across counties so a determination could be made about whether the referred juvenile has been through another county's diversion program. Though the benefits were acknowledged, most thought it would be negative to do so, based on the purpose of the program—to divert away from the justice system, whether juvenile or adult. A juvenile does not have any negative record for having completed a diversion program.

Pre-Adjudication Detention (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication

Probable Cause Hearing (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court

Competency Evaluation (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings

Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts

Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by §43-247”

Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (PDI)

Whether to order OJS evaluation

Whether to order a PDI and an OJS evaluation

Notes:

If the judge is seeing the juvenile for the first time, and it is serious enough to be in court, then a PDI is always ordered first, unless reason to believe family has significant issues needing addressed right away, then an OJS evaluation is ordered. If, after a PDI is completed, and Probation determines more services are needed, then an OJS evaluation would be ordered.

Gage County does not have funding for out-of-home placements, so if such a placement is needed, an OJS evaluation is conducted.

The Gage County juvenile justice system prefers keeping a juvenile on Probation supervision with as many services available and appropriate without going to the HHS/OJS system.

It is very rare in Gage County that a youth is on Probation and committed to OJS at the same time.

Disposition (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether to place juvenile on probation

Whether to commit juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS)

Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS

Notes:

If participation in the community service program is required, the juvenile will receive a disposition of Probation. If the program participant is under 16, an adult sponsor is required.

The decision to make a juvenile a ward of the state is dependent on the services the juvenile needs. Most decisions regarding juveniles in Gage County involve available and appropriate services.

A challenge in Gage County is that there is just one provider for services specifically for juveniles on a sliding fee scale—Blue Valley Mental Health. This does not include intensive outpatient treatment, which is a need. Juveniles are not able to access the state’s voucher treatment program to pay for treatment which is only for adults at this time.

Administrative Sanctions (Probation)

Whether to impose administrative sanctions

Notes:

Administrative sanctions are greatly utilized in Gage County.

Motion to Revoke Probation (County Attorney)

Whether to file a motion to revoke probation

Notes:

If there is a new law violation, a motion to revoke probation may be filed. Many times it takes several new law violations before the motion will be filed.

Much of this decision depends on the probation officer involved—whether the officer files violations. It was agreed that it all depends on communication. Each agency, whether it is law enforcement or probation or the county attorney, for example, can only go through their own level, and then communication to the next level is crucial. Communication has gotten better over the past couple years.

Modification/Revocation of Probation (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether to modify or revoke probation

Notes:

Revocations of Probation rarely happen. It depends on the juvenile and the types of new crimes that they have been involved with.

There is a sense that juveniles within the system, “know the system” so they understand what they can get away with before Probation is revoked and they are sent to the next level.

Setting Aside Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment

Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS

Notes:

The court always decides when it is appropriate to be discharged from supervision based on a juvenile case in Gage County.

Summary:

Gage County juvenile justice professionals and interested community members are a very committed group, working together to address the needs of youth across the continuum of services—from prevention to diversion to as many sanctions based in the Gage County community for juveniles as possible.

The community and the juvenile justice system as a whole in Gage County understands and relays in practice that a juvenile justice system is about *rehabilitation*, not punishment, of the juvenile. All points in the system signify that philosophy of rehabilitation in Gage County.

As a result of the discussions had for the juvenile system analysis, in addition to continuing the community's progressive work, the following may be considered:

1) Utilization of a standardized assessment tool by diversion/county attorney's office

At this time, the diversion program is using the JIFF (Juvenile Inventory for Functioning) as their standardized screening instrument. A standardized screening process using assessment tools such as the YLS/CMI could be used to develop a more efficient way to screen and case manage the juveniles being considered. In addition, Probation and OJS have both implemented the YLS/CMI into their investigatory and supervision policies which would allow for a continuum of risk and needs for a juvenile throughout the system—specifically in Gage County. This would also provide diversion an assessment tool to identify issues at the time of intake versus after the juvenile has been placed in the program. Communication about the needs of the juvenile would more easily be accomplished if the same tool were utilized.

2) Additional Resources

Through discussion, there seems to be frustration in keeping a juvenile on Probation for “too long” even after problems, such as new law violations, have been identified. A new law violation might be a sign that something else is going on in the juvenile's life and is in need of other or additional services. A lack of resources to access while a juvenile is on Probation may be part of the problem. If a juvenile is going to “stay” on Probation supervision, appropriate services need to be available to the juvenile probationer. One example might be intensive outpatient treatment.

3) 3rd Degree Assault and Neglect

The two most common cases in Gage County juvenile court are 3rd degree assaults and neglect cases. A more focused study on what is needed for those types of offenders—whether prevention services or services after in the juvenile court system—might be something the county looks toward investigating further.

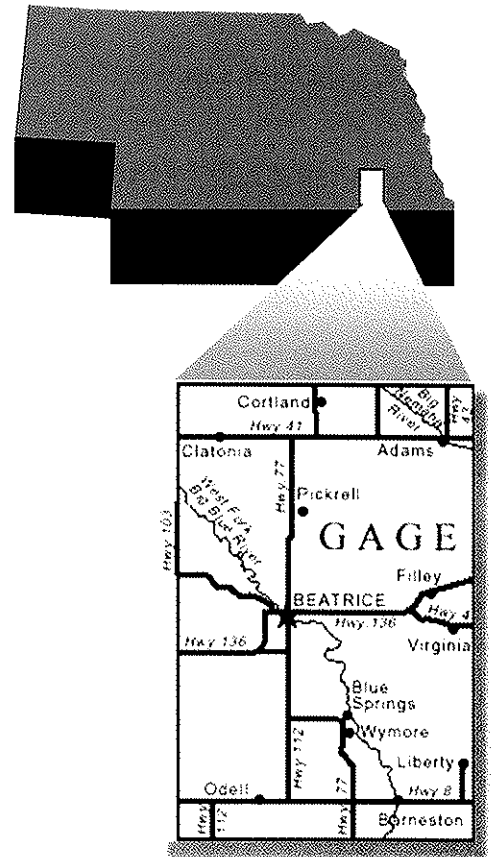
4) Continued Improvement of Programs

Gage County has some strong programs and strong community groups in place to deal with youth. From the diversion program to SCIP teams to treatment teams to a solid truancy process to a MAPS Coalition, many efforts are established or underway. It is important to continue to analyze these efforts for betterment of the programs. Continued community support is also important.

Community Socio-Economics:

Gage county, Nebraska, is a rural county directly south of the state capital of Lincoln, NE, along Highway 77 in Southeastern Nebraska. Immediately north of the Nebraska – Kansas state line and within 60 miles of both Iowa and Missouri, the 855 square mile county is highly rural, culturally homogenous, and impoverished according to state and national criteria. Some of the demographics of Gage County are characterized below, based on 2000 US Census Data and 2006 Census Estimates:

Total Population:	23,365
• % under age 18	21.6%
Ethnicity Information:	
• White/Caucasian:	97.5%
• Black	0.4%
• Asian	0.5%
• Hispanic/Latino	1.3%
• Not indicated	0.3
Persons below poverty	9.9%
Per Capita Income	\$17,190
Cities, Villages, & Towns:	
• Adams	470
• Barneston	122
• Beatrice	12,354
• Blue Springs	431
• Clatonia	296
• Cortland	393
• Filley	157
• Holmesville	75 *unincorporated
• Liberty	74
• Odell	500
• Pickrell	201
• Virginia	94
• Wymore	1,611



The county seat, Beatrice lies near the geographic center of the county and is surrounded by a dozen smaller communities, ranging from Holmesville, a quaint, unincorporated village along the Big Blue River with under 100 residents; to Adams, a community of almost 500 people in northern Gage County that is growing in both population and economic affluence; to Wymore, a blue-collar community of 1,600 with perpetually high rates of poverty and unemployment. The total population of the county has not fluctuated from approximately 23,000 residents in nearly 50 years.

Our County's History & Economics:

The following information summarizes some sentinel events in our county's history that impact the population and establishes a framework for understanding the community-level needs and resources in Gage County, Nebraska.

- A significant decline in the past 5 to 10 years in the employment base, particularly the light industrial manufacturing sector, which is the major employer in Gage County. Three large factories have made significant declines in their staff, while a fourth-closed in late 2008.
- The Beatrice State Development Center, the county's single largest employer, has recently undergone extensive federal and state scrutiny for their management and resident care practices, causing deep community concern and bringing excessive scrutiny to the workforce.
- Some positives in the county's business sector have recently been announced: a groundbreaking for a new shopping and dining plaza on the north edge of Beatrice, as was the location for a new hospital facility near the same location.
- Community heritage and recreation opportunities have been bolstered in the past 3 years by the addition of a new Welsh Heritage Center in Wymore, the renovated Old West Trails Center and Museum in Odell, and the nearly \$6-million dollar Homestead National Monument of America's new Heritage Center.
- In 2004, Samantha Spady, a Beatrice High graduate and life-long Beatrice resident was a sophomore at Colorado State University when she was found dead of alcohol poisoning in a fraternity house in Fort Collins, CO. Sam's death caught the national media spotlight and drew a great deal of attention to binge drinking on college campuses, launching her parents and the Beatrice community into a spotlight for a brief time.
- Our county's geographic location places us in the risk area for several natural disaster possibilities, including floods, tornadoes, drought, and severe winter storms. All 4 of those natural disasters have been experienced in Gage County over the past half-century, including several tornadoes that have devastated portions of our county as well as droughts that adversely impact the agricultural foundation of our communities.

Gage County's economic base has historically been, and continues to be, rooted in agriculture. From raising crops and livestock to servicing irrigation equipment; from machinery sales and repair to an up-and-coming ethanol and bio-fuels industry, our economic history and future appear to be deeply tied to the success or challenges of the agricultural sector.

Gage County also has a large amount of light manufacturing as it is home to 3 of the nation's largest commercial lawn mower manufacturers as well as various other industries. The industrial sector often sees cycling growth and decline, with seasonal layoffs and re-hires causing fluctuation in many of our county residents' fiscal security and reliance on social services during periods of difficulty.

Health and Human Services is another large employment sector, providing a key economic base for Gage County. Home of the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC), the state home for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as another private group home serving the same population, and a local community hospital that has become a regional

leader in local health care and several assisted living and nursing home facilities, a large number of residents are employed in the health and human services field.

Community Priorities:

Priority #1: Continue a Strong Juvenile Community Service Program.

Problem: The Gage County Community Service program was developed for use with juvenile offenders in 2003 as the result of a need within Gage County. At that time, there was nothing available to hold juveniles accountable for any community service that was performed. In addition, only three agencies were willing to provide community service opportunities for youth because of the lack of accountability these youth had for the jobs they were doing. There was no way for an agency to address poor performance they may have experienced. Probation officers were responsible for their own follow-up to be sure community service was, in fact, completed which was difficult with the high caseload. Community service could not be considered as a part of the Juvenile Diversion program due to lack of supervision of the service.

The Gage County Juvenile Services Advisory Council determined that a high priority for county aid funding was the establishment of a Community Service Coordinator. Since that time, the Community Service program has filled a need for probation, the courts and the diversion program. Since this program began, 257 youth have completed a total of 4,304 community service hours, all within Gage County. There are now 44 cooperating agencies involved in the community service project.

Members of the MAPS (Multiple Agencies Partnering for Success) Community Justice Task Force feel this position serves a critical need in the community. It is designed to encourage responsibility, reliability, developing a caring attitude, respect for others, fairness and a sense of citizenship.

This service fills a need that helps the other juvenile services be more effective, which they appreciate, while benefiting organizations and the community.

An attorney seeking community service hours in a different county commented that she felt every county should have a coordinator.

Probation Officers do not have to spend time in assisting the youth in finding community service. The youth receive education at the orientation, and when the hours are completed the Community Service Coordinator verifies the completed hours and obtains feedback from the cooperating agency. The Coordinator also serves as a liaison between the cooperating agencies and referral sources, acknowledging agencies' wishes on restrictions regarding participants and following up with an agency who has reported a bad experience with a participant.

This service has benefited the community with the number of hours which have been completed, and hopefully, has been a method of education regarding civic responsibility for the juveniles.

Strategies:

- Employ a half-time Community Service Coordinator.
 - This position is currently contracted through the Beatrice Police Department. It will continue to be the responsibility of the Police Department to house and employ this position.
- Review current policy and procedures in releasing information regarding the juvenile offender to the cooperating agency.
 - This will be the responsibility of the Project Director, Project Coordinator and the Community Service Coordinator to review the current policy and procedure and make necessary changes.
- Put more educational emphasis on the community service component.
 - This will be the responsibility of the Project Director, Project Coordinator and the Community Service Coordinator to review current curriculum and make necessary changes.
- Review and adjust topics covered at orientation.
 - This will be the responsibility of the Project Director, Project Coordinator and the Community Service Coordinator to review current curriculum and make necessary changes.

Timeline: All activities will begin upon approval of the 2009 grant application.

Expected Outcomes:

- Service Learning builds confidence, according to a study by Independent Sector, an organization that studies nonprofit groups. Youth in the study reported that volunteering helped them learn to respect others, to be kind and helpful, to learn new skills, and to develop leadership skills. They also reported gaining satisfaction from helping others. A goal of the Juvenile Diversion program is to help youth develop responsibility, including more responsibility and pride in community. Required community service helps that goal be reached through a positive approach, rather than the negative approach of adjudication.
- The Community Service program will continue and possibly expand to serve adults throughout Gage County. Juveniles may also be expected to pay a fee. The fee-for-service program would supplement the costs of the program and partially support expected salary and benefit increases.

Priority #2: Implementation/utilization of the YLS/CMI assessment tool.

During 2008, the Juvenile Diversion program implemented the JIFF assessment tool. Prior to admission to the five week program, the juvenile is interviewed and the tool is administered. While this tool has served the purpose of obtaining information regarding the youth and his/her family, it has become a priority to implement the YLS/CMI (Youthful Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory) tool.

Assessing the risk and needs of juvenile offenders with this instrument would be included in the program's overall goal of moving towards evidence based principles and practices, an approach that uses the best available evidence from research to make decisions regarding interventions and practices designed to reduce recidivism and promote public safety. This standardized assessment tool would not only provide information regarding the youth and his/her family, it would also score risk in the domains of education, associates, recreation, prior law contacts, substance abuse, personality and attitudes.

While each juvenile and their parent would be involved in the five week course and community service requirement to complete the program, the scoring of the assessment tool would assist the team in focusing and responding to the dynamic domains more specifically. The team members would also be more accurate in referring the family and/or juvenile to community resources in substance abuse, mental health, parenting education, etc., as needed.

Currently, Probation and the Office of Juvenile Services have implemented the YLS/CMI assessment tool in their investigatory and supervision policies. This would allow for a continuum of risk and needs for a juvenile throughout the system in Gage County. By using this standardized tool subjective bias by the court and supervising officers would be reduced. Improving placement of offenders in appropriate programming can lead to enhanced public safety. Also, if programming is unavailable, such as the intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment, there will be more evidence of a need for the resource to be developed by area service providers.

The use of this tool will also assist the Juvenile Diversion team in identifying expected outcomes and measuring the success of the program.

Strategies:

- Obtain training of the Youthful Level of Service/Case Management Inventory for the two members of the Juvenile Diversion Teaching Team that have not been trained.
 - It will be the responsibility of the plan writers/facilitators to seek out training and make arrangements for the two members of the team that have not been trained. A refresher for the two that have had the training may also be arranged.
- Implement a policy and procedure for utilization of the tool with referrals to the Juvenile Diversion program.

- This will be the responsibility of the teaching team members and will be reviewed by the Juvenile Diversion Advisory Council.
- Develop and complete a system for tracking scores in individual domains and overall risk scores for each juvenile.
 - This will be the responsibility of the Juvenile Diversion Coordinator.
- Identify outcome measures and evaluate the success of the program and the progress of youth.
 - This will be the responsibility of the teaching team members and will be reviewed by the Juvenile Diversion Advisory Council.

Timeline: The process for all of these strategies has begun with a meeting planned for the Teaching Team members on the 25th of February, 2009.

Expected Outcomes:

- Communication among the professionals in Gage County dealing with juveniles will increase. This enhancement in communication will benefit the juvenile, their families, and the professionals with more appropriate referrals and placements, improved case planning and overall, a decrease in recidivism and enhanced public safety.
- The Juvenile Diversion Teaching Team and Advisory Council will be able to make more reliable decisions in curriculum design based on identifying outcome measures to evaluate the success of the program.

Priority #3: Develop/Continue partnerships within the community in providing resources and support to families.

Anecdotal information from police officers, juvenile diversion, probation, Child Protection Safety workers and Office of Juvenile Services has indicated a number of youth and families that are in crisis prior to receiving any services in Gage County. Those stories combined with the recent interest from around the United States in Nebraska's Safe Haven law indicates that there is a significant problem in families being able to resolve issues and access resources.

Parents are struggling with youth who skip school, abuse drugs or alcohol, or exhibit rebellious behavior. Those who cannot pay for private care to address these problems sometimes seek assistance through the Juvenile Justice System. Evidence-based practice indicates that court involvement with some status offenders and youth with mental health related issues exacerbates the problems that first led families to seek help.

There is increasing evidence of frustration in the Juvenile Justice system. Officers and the Court have limited options and financial resources. Holding a juvenile accountable for their actions and providing for rehabilitation are often unrealistic goals with high case loads and minimal resources.

Systems reform in other states are developing and researching models for change. In making Courts the last resort and shifting focus to supporting families in crisis, systems have realized more effective outcomes for youth and families by responding to families swiftly, individually and in the community. Many of the reforms have produced significant cost savings to the state, as well.

Strategies:

- Continue to assess the extent of the problem in Gage County while staying informed with Legislative reform regarding the Safe Haven laws.
 - The writers/facilitators of this plan will take responsibility for this strategy.
- Initiate discussions with an interdisciplinary group of stakeholders in the community regarding possible solutions including our MAPS (Multiple Agencies Partnering for Success) Coalition Community Justice Task Force, human service agencies, mental health providers, the Child Abuse and Neglect Treatment Team, and other interested community members.
 - The Gage County MAPS Community Justice Task Force will be responsible for this strategy.
- Investigate options in developing an evidenced-based, comprehensive system for families in need.
 - The Gage County MAPS Community Justice Task Force will be responsible for this strategy.

Timeline:

The Community Justice Task Force of MAPS is taking responsibility for the implementation and focus of this strategy with the facilitation of the group being with the writer's of the plan. The activities will occur within the next three years of the plan; however, the hope is that planning can begin immediately.

Expected Outcomes:

This priority was developed with the desire to investigate and develop a more effective approach for families in obtaining assistance with troubled youth. This would allow for the families seeking assistance to be served more effectively, increasing the opportunities for success of the youth in the future, in addition to reducing the likelihood that the youth will become involved in the juvenile justice system. Strengthening families will provide a positive impact on the community and realize a cost savings to several systems. By diverting youth from the juvenile justice system, professionals will have the opportunity to focus on high risk youth and become more effective in their interventions.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the information in this application is accurate and, as the authorized official for the project, hereby agree to comply with all provisions of the grant program and all other applicable state and federal laws.

NAME (PLEASE TYPE)	TITLE	TELEPHONE
Rex Adams	Gage County Supervisor Chair	402-645-3561
ADDRESS		
116 N. Douglas Street, P.O. Box 37		
CITY, STATE, ZIP		
Blue Springs, NE 68318		
SIGNATURE		DATE

(NOTE: The authorized official is the County Board chair)